

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ARA-06
IO-13 /108 W
-----060638Z 077920/11

R 051200Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 887
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, ET, US
SUBJECT: YAR PRESIDENT ON ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 53207

1. DURING APRIL 4 MEETING, I CONVEYED TO AL-HAMDI THE SUBSTANCE OF PARA 2 REFTEL IN RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER REQUEST FOR STATUS OF US ARMS SUPPLY TO ETHIOPIA. I EMPHASIZED THAT US POLICY IN THE HORN NOW UNDERGOING INTENSIVE REVIEW. I ALSO REITERATED TO AL-HAMDI THAT USG HAS ALREADY DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO PROVIDE ANY MAP MATERIAL DURING FY 78 (EXCEPT FOR SUPPLY OPERATIONS). I CONTINUED THAT THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA REMAINS UNPREDICTABLE BUT THAT USG IS FOLLOWING IT VERY CLOSELY.

2. AL-HAMDI REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING A MAJOR
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EFFORT IN ETHIOPIA IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION THERE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE USG IS FOLLOWING THESE EFFORTS CLOSELY AND IS STUDYING THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR ETHIOPIA AND THE REGION AS A WHOLE. AL-HAMDI CONTINUED THAT CASTRO'S RECENT TRIP TO THE REGION HAD BEEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIETS AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING ABOUT A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

THIS RAPPROCHEMENT IS NOW A MAJOR SOVIET GOAL IN THE REGION. NOT ONLY WERE THERE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS BETWEEN CASTRO AND LEADERS IN ADEN, MOGADISCIO AND ADDIS ABABA BUT A SECRET MEETING WAS ALSO HELD OF ALL OF THESE LEADERS PLUS CASTRO IN ADEN DURING WHICH CASTRO TRIED TO BRING ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TOGETHER WITH ADEN SUPPORTING CASTRO IN THIS EFFORT. CASTRO FAILED, HOWEVER, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES CONTINUE TO BE STRAINED.

3. AL-HAMDI SAID THAT HE HAS INFORMATION WHICH HE ADMITTED HE COULD NOT VERIFY THAT AS A RESULT OF THE CASTRO MISSION TO ETHIOPIA CUBA WILL NOW SEND SOLDIERS TO ETHIOPIA TO HELP THE REGIME THERE. AL-HAMDI STATED HE HAD NO IDEA HOW MANY SOLDIERS WILL BE INVOLVED OR WHEN THEY WILL ARRIVE BUT HE SAID THAT THE NEXT THREE MONTHS MIGHT WELL BE CRITICAL IN ETHIOPIA.

4. AL-HAMDI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION I HAD GIVEN HIM ABOUT OUR CURRENT REVIEW OF US/ETHIOPIA RELATIONS AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: AL-HAMDI IS IN A GOOD POSITION TO CONFIRM THE HOLDING OF THE CASTRO-SPONSORED "SECRET" ADEN MEETING IN MID-MARCH BETWEEN THE SOMALIS AND THE ETHIOPIANS. AL-HAMDI WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED AND GRATIFIED THAT THE CASTRO EFFORT FAILED BUT HE IS ALSO OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT CURRENT SOVIET MACHINATIONS IN THE AREA AND BY AMERICAN ATTITUDE WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS
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"INDIFFERENT".
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, ET, US, (AL-HAMDI, IBRAHIM)
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